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a base plate having an upper and lower surface, a rear end and a front end, and ports to receive and secure the fluid line and the irrigation assembly, at least one of said ports being located at said front end.

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courteous phone interview of March 1, 1999 in which the independent claims and several dependent claims were discussed. The results of that interview are reflected in this Amendment.

As discussed, Claims 1 and 18 are amended to provide antecedent basis for the irrigation tip. Claim 3 is amended to clarify the tube is flexible. Claim 18 is amended to define the support along the same lines as Claim 1. Claim 27 is amended to clarify the co-planarity, and to define the limiter as increasing the flexibility of the irrigation tip. Claim 39 is amended to include features from intervening claims 8 and 13. Per the discussion, these claims are believed allowable and such allowance is requested.

During the phone interview the deletion of Claims 16-17 and 36 was discussed. Those claims have not been deleted, but are amended to reflect the further definition of the coplanar irrigation tip and limiter, and the flexible tip, as used in Claim 27. The claims are believed allowable.

The Examiner also initially raised an enablement rejection, saying that the claims define connecting a fluid source to the irrigation tip, and that the drawings show only a siphon connected to a water container. The Examiner questioned whether the siphon would work

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when the irrigation tip was inserted into a person's body cavity and whether the specification disclosed how to use a siphon. No resolution was reached. Enablement is based on what is known to one of ordinary skill in the art for the pertinent technology. The specification need not show what is old, only what is new. The application describes and shows the siphon, as well as connecting the irrigation tip to a faucet and pressure regulator in addition to the siphon. Specification at 4:23 to 5:2, and 5:14-17. The faucet and pressure regulator are believed to be enabling for the claims, especially as some of the cited prior art show similar water sources. As regards the siphon, it is believed to work as illustrated. Further, one skilled in the art is believed sufficiently knowledgeable to start a siphon. Thus, the claims are believed to be enabled.

CONCLUSION:

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested. If the undersigned has misunderstood, or if the amendments are



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inadequate to place the claims in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned to resolve any remaining differences.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 3/5/99

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